

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment to the claims is intended to place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, Claims 1-4, 13-20 and 23 have been canceled, and Claims 5-12 have been amended. In view of these amendments and the following reasoning for allowance, the applicants hereby respectfully request further examination and reconsideration of the subject application.

The Section 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-4, 13-20 and 23

Claims 1-4, 13-20 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bloomfield, U.S. Patent No. 6,141,008. While no admission is made that the rejected claims are actually anticipated by the cited reference, the applicants have chosen to cancel these claims to further the prosecution of the application and expedite its allowance.

The Objection to Claims 5-12

Claims 5-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is believed the foregoing amendments to these claims accomplish the suggested rewriting. As such it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 5-12 be withdrawn.

Summary

In summary, the allowance of Claims 21 and 22 is gratefully acknowledged. In addition, it is believed that the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Claims 5-12 is respectfully

requested. In addition, allowance of these claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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